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Thursday, 23 June 1994

The week in statistics ...

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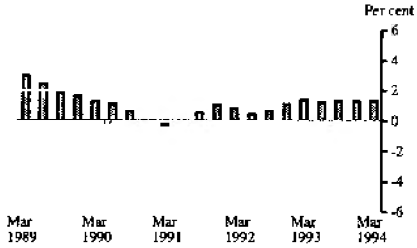
IAN CASTLES
Australian Statistician

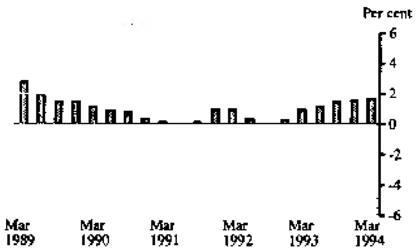
Queensland leads the way again in economic growth

GROSS STATE PRODUCT AT CURRENT PRICES
Trend quarterly change

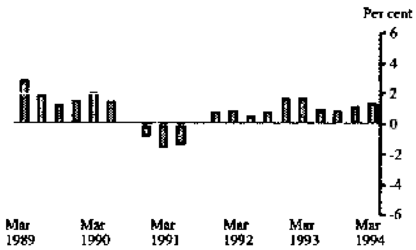
Australia



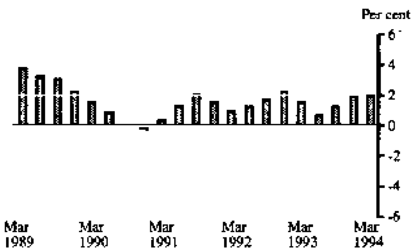
New South Wales



Victoria



Queensland



Queensland achieved 2.1 per cent economic growth in trend current price terms for the March quarter 1994, the second consecutive quarter in which Queensland led the way in economic growth.

New South Wales grew at a rate of 1.8 per cent. Victoria matched the Australian growth rate of 1.5 per cent, while all the other States grew at a lower rate than the Australian average. All these estimates relate to the income-based measure of gross domestic product.

Trend changes in the total production of each State (gross State product (GSP)) and the total demand of each State's resident individuals, enterprises and government (State final demand (SFD)), are examined in this article. GSP estimates are only available in current price terms, while the discussion of SFD is in terms of average 1989–90 prices.

GROSS STATE PRODUCT AT CURRENT PRICES
Trend series
Percentage change

State/Territory	*From previous quarter*	*From corresponding quarter of previous year*
New South Wales	1.8	6.5
Victoria	1.5	4.9
Queensland	2.1	6.5
South Australia	0.2	3.1
Western Australia	1.2	8.0
Tasmania	1.1	3.0
Northern Territory	−1.6	−0.8
Australian Capital Territory	1.1	6.3
Australia GDP(I)	*1.5*	*6.0*

New South Wales' GSP increased 1.8 per cent in the March quarter, continuing the increasing growth evident since the March quarter 1993. Growth in each of the last three quarters has exceeded the growth rate for Australia, following periods of significantly lower growth during most of 1992.

In Victoria, growth in GSP over the last two quarters steadily increased with the March quarter 1994 figure matching the Australian growth rate of 1.5 per cent. Trend estimates for wages, salaries and supplements for Victoria continued to be affected by large redundancy payments made in the March and June quarters 1993.

Queensland's 2.1 per cent rise in GSP for both the December quarter 1993 and the March quarter 1994 was the highest of all the States. Growth over the year to the March quarter 1994 was 6.5 per cent, slightly higher than the national growth rate of 6.0 per cent.

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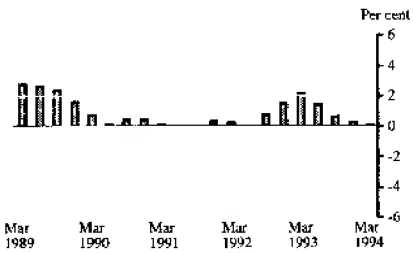
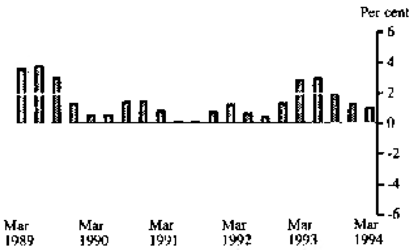
GROSS STATE PRODUCT AT CURRENT PRICES
Trend quarterly change

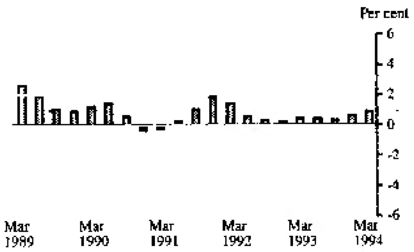
South Australia



Western Australia



Tasmania



South Australia experienced slow growth of 0.2 per cent in the March quarter 1994. Growth in GSP declined from higher levels experienced for most of 1992–93.

After experiencing reasonably strong growth from the March quarter 1992 to the September quarter 1993, the growth in GSP for Western Australia slowed in the last two quarters, with the March quarter 1994 rising by 1.2 per cent. However, growth over the year to the March quarter 1994 was 8.0 per cent, highest of all the States.

Tasmania's growth in GSP strengthened over the last two quarters to reach 1.1 per cent, but still remains below the Australian growth rate.

The Northern Territory experienced another period of decline in GSP, with the March quarter 1994 recording –1.6 per cent. Northern Territory figures continue to be affected by declines in oil and uranium production.

The Australian Capital Territory recorded a 1.1 per cent rate of growth for the March quarter 1994, significantly lower than the growth rates experienced for most of 1993.

Final demand growth quickens in most States

Trend estimates of State final demand at average 1989–90 prices showed higher growth rates in the March quarter 1994 than in previous quarters for all States except Tasmania, the Northern Territory and the Australian Capital Territory.

STATE FINAL DEMAND AT AVERAGE 1989–90 PRICES
Trend series
Percentage change

State	*From previous quarter*	*From corresponding quarter of previous year*
New South Wales	1.7	3.0
Victoria	1.2	3.3
Queensland	1.2	3.6
South Australia	0.9	2.8
Western Australia	1.8	4.3
Tasmania	0.4	1.2
Northern Territory	1.5	7.1
Australian Capital Territory	0.6	2.5
Australia GDP(I)	*1.3*	3.2

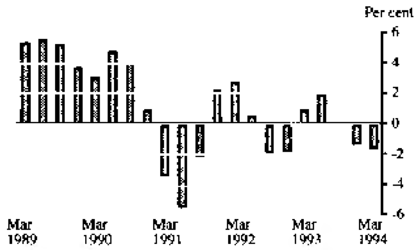
New South Wales experienced the second highest growth rate in SFD of all the States in the March quarter 1994. Final consumption expenditure was the major contributor to the 1.7 per cent increase in SFD in the March quarter 1994, while growth in gross fixed capital expenditure remained low.

Victoria's SFD increased 1.2 per cent in the March quarter and is now 3.3 per cent higher than in the March quarter 1993. Both private and public final consumption expenditure showed relatively moderate rises, while public capital expenditure grew strongly (4.5%) in the March quarter 1994.

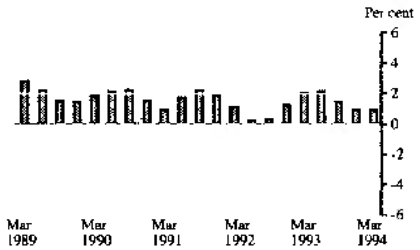
Continued …

GROSS STATE PRODUCT AT CURRENT PRICES
Trend quarterly change

Northern Territory



Australian Capital Territory



SFD for Queensland increased by 1.2 per cent, just below the Australian average (1.3%). Contributing to the growth were rises in private final consumption expenditure (up 1.1%), private capital expenditure (up 1.0%) and public final demand (up 1.7%).

South Australia experienced an increase of 0.9 per cent in SFD during the March quarter to be 2.8 per cent higher than the March quarter 1993. Although below the Australian average of 1.3 per cent, SFD has steadily increased since the March quarter 1993.

Western Australia recorded the highest growth rate of all States for SFD in the March quarter 1994. SFD increased by 1.8 per cent in the quarter. Continuing the pattern of the past four quarters, the growth rate for private final consumption expenditure also exceeded that in other States, increasing 1.7 per cent in the March quarter.

Tasmania's growth of 0.4 per cent in SFD was entirely due to a 1.2 per cent increase in private final consumption expenditure. Since the March quarter 1993, SFD has increased only 1.2 per cent, the lowest growth rate of all States over this period.

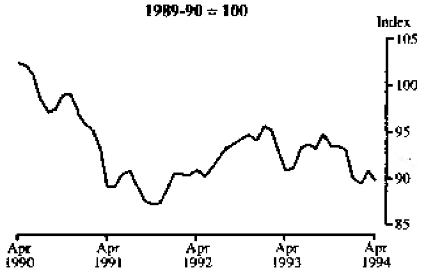
The growth of 1.5 per cent in SFD for the Northern Territory was below the 2.3 per cent increase recorded in the previous quarter. However, SFD is 7.1 per cent higher than twelve months earlier — the highest annual growth rate of all States. The main factor underlying this large annual increase is a 41.8 per cent rise in private gross fixed capital expenditure.

In the March quarter 1994, SFD for the Australian Capital Territory increased 0.6 per cent, below the Australian average of 1.3 per cent. The increase was affected, primarily, by a fall in private capital expenditure of 0.8 per cent, while private final consumption expenditure increased 1.1 per cent and public demand showed a marginal rise.

For further information, order the publication Australian National Accounts, State Accounts *(5242.0), or contact Dharshi Ganeson on (06) 252 7188 for current price estimates, or Steve Waugh on (06) 252 6711 for constant price estimates.*

Decrease in export prices

EXPORT PRICES
1989-90 = 100



The Export Price Index decreased by 1.2 per cent in April 1994.

The fall in the index was mainly a result of the increase in the value of the Australian dollar against the major trading currencies. The stronger Australian dollar resulted in lower prices (in Australian dollar terms) for a wide range of exports. Lower prices were also recorded for coal, and iron ores and concentrates, reflecting new contract prices negotiated with Japanese buyers.

These price falls were partly offset by price rises for a number of items, in particular aluminium and refined petroleum products.

Between April 1993 and April 1994 the Export Price Index decreased by 1.2 per cent.

Continued ...

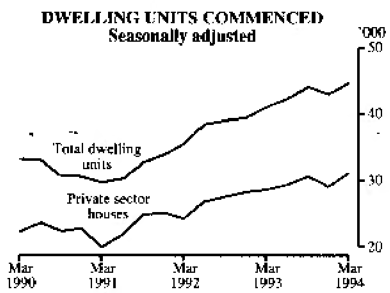
Price changes for major commodity groups are shown below.

EXPORT PRICES, APRIL 1994
Percentage change

Commodity group	*From previous month*	*From corresponding month of previous year*
Wool and cotton fibres	– 0.5	12.4
Gold, diamonds and coin	– 3.1	7.8
Live animals and animal products	1.3	7.3
Prepared food stuffs	– 0.6	6.5
Base metals	1.1	2.7
Motor vehicles, aircraft and vessels	– 0.4	1.1
Machinery and appliances	0.5	– 1.8
Products of chemicals and allied industries	– 1.2	– 7.9
Mineral products	– 3.1	– 8.8
Vegetable products	– 2.8	– 11.4
All groups	*– 1.2*	*– 1.2*

For further information, order the publication Export Price Index, Australia *(6405.0), or contact Peter Cordy on (06) 252 5541.*

Housing starts remain strong



The preliminary estimate of the number of dwelling units commenced in the March quarter 1994 was 44,710 in seasonally adjusted terms. This was up 4.1 per cent over the December quarter 1993 estimate and 8.9 per cent on the March quarter 1993 estimate. The March quarter 1994 estimate was the highest number of commencements in a quarter since the 44,856 dwellings commenced in the December quarter 1988. The highest number ever recorded in a quarter was 45,457 commencements in the June quarter 1973.

Private sector house commencements rose by 7.2 per cent to 31,162 in the March quarter 1994, and were 8.9 per cent above the March quarter 1993 estimate.

Dwelling unit commencements rose in New South Wales (5.4%), Victoria (4.3%), Western Australia (5.3%), Tasmania (14.3%) and the Australian Capital Territory (70.3%, from a low December quarter 1993 base). These rises more than offset small falls in Queensland (– 1.3%) and South Australia (– 1.5%). Total commencements in the quarter were higher than the corresponding 1993 estimates in all States except South Australia.

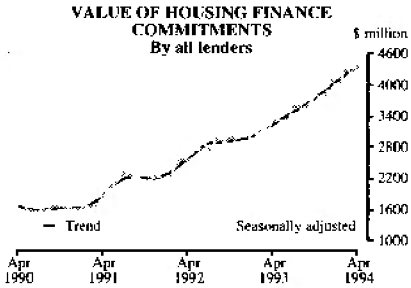
In original terms, there were 40,808 dwelling units commenced in the March quarter 1994, a decrease of 8.2 per cent from the high December quarter 1993 estimate of 44,469. Total private sector commencements fell by 8.9 per cent, consistently across both categoties of house and other residential buildings. Total public sector commencements rose by 10.0 per cent, mainly due to a 42.0 per cent rise in public other residential building commencements (from a low December quarter 1993 base). Public sector house commencements fell by 15.3 per cent.

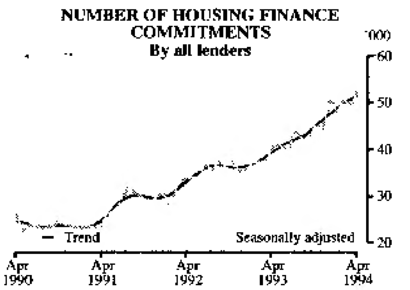
Continued ...

Total dwelling unit commencements in the March quarter 1994 were up 8.9 per cent over the same period in 1993. Commencements of other residential dwellings increased by 12.6 per cent, while house commencements increased by 7.5 per cent, in original terms.

For further information, order the publication Building Activity, Australia: Dwelling Unit Commencements, Preliminary *(8750.0), or contact Paul Seville on (06) 252 6067.*

Housing finance — upward trend continues to slow





Although the upward movement in the provisional trend estimate of the number of dwelling units financed continued in April 1994, the rate of increase slowed with only a 1.3 per cent rise on the revised March 1994 trend estimate. The revised monthly growth in trend for March 1994 is now 1.8 per cent, slightly down from the 1.9 per cent indicated last month.

The trend estimate in April 1994 for the category 'construction of dwellings' was up 1.0 per cent on March 1994. Estimates for the categories 'purchase of newly erected dwellings' and 'purchase of established dwellings' showed increases of 1.5 per cent and 1.4 per cent respectively. The revised trend estimates for March for these two categories were (newly erected) 2.2 per cent and (established) 1.9 per cent.

HOUSING FINANCE, APRIL 1994
Number of dwellings

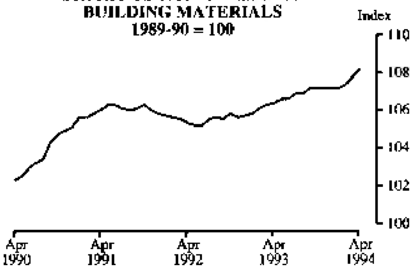
	Established dwellings	*Construction of dwellings*	*Newly erected dwellings*	*Total*
% change from March 1994				
Trend	1.4	1.0	1.5	1.3
Seasonally adjusted	4.8	14.8	5.6	6.7
Original	– 23.2	– 13.4	– 21.2	– 19.9
% change from April 1993				
Trend	30.3	24.3	40.3	29.6
Seasonally adjusted	28.7	26.2	28.3	28.2
Original	27.1	25.7	26.8	26.8

In seasonally adjusted terms, the number of dwelling units financed in April 1994 rose by 6.7 per cent on March 1994, and was 28.2 per cent higher than the April 1993 figure. All three categories increased in April 1994, with construction of dwellings, up 14.8 per cent, newly erected, 5.6 per cent, and established, 4.8 per cent. The number of dwelling units financed in April, in original terms, was down 19.9 per cent on March 1994 but 26.8 per cent higher than in April 1993.

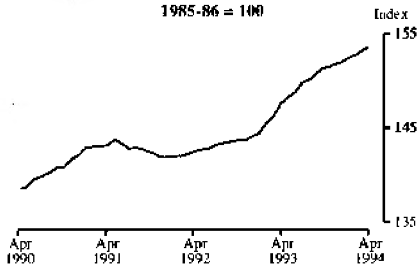
Refinancing accounted for 13.5 per cent of the total dwellings financed in April 1994 in original terms, down from 14.0 per cent last month, and down on the 13.9 per cent for April 1993.

For further information, order the publication Housing Finance for Owner Occupation, Australia *(5609.0), or contact Mark Dennis on (02) 268 4784.*

PRICES OF NON-DWELLING BUILDING MATERIALS
1989-90 = 100



PRICES OF HOUSE BUILDING MATERIALS
1985-86 = 100



Building materials — April 1994

From March 1994 to April 1994, prices of materials used in the construction of houses increased by 0.3 per cent while prices of materials used in other building increased by 0.4 per cent.

From April 1993 to April 1994 prices of materials used in house building increased by 4.1 per cent; prices of materials used in other forms of building increased by 1.7 per cent.

Contributing most to the overall increase this month were higher prices for ready mixed concrete (up 1.6%), especially in Sydney.

PRICES OF BUILDING MATERIALS, APRIL 1994
Percentage change

	House building		*Other than house building*	
City	*From previous month*	*From corresponding month of previous year*	*From previous month*	*From corresponding month of previous year*
Sydney	0.6	3.4	0.6	1.4
Melbourne	0.1	4.8	0.2	1.8
Brisbane	0.5	2.8	0.5	1.3
Adelaide	0.1	9.5	–0.1	2.5
Perth	0.1	2.0	0.2	1.5
Hobart	0.3	3.0	0.8	1.1
Weighted average of six State capitals	0.3	4.1	0.4	1.7
Canberra	0.1	5.1	0.2	1.2

For further information, order the publications Price Index of Materials Used in House Building, Six State Capital Cities and Canberra *(6408.0) and* Price Index of Materials Used in Building Other Than House Building, Six State Capital Cities and Canberra *(6407.0), or contact Robert Adams (06) 252 6198.*

Finance in brief ...

❒ **Personal finance**

The provisional trend estimate for personal finance commitments for April 1994 was $2,305.3 million, a decrease of $19.8 million (0.9%) on March 1994 but an increase of $617.7 million (36.6%) on April 1993. Seasonally adjusted, personal finance commitments for April 1994 was $2,141.4 million, a decrease of $103.7 million (4.6%) on March 1994 but an increase of $447.6 million (26.4%) on April 1993.

❒ **Commercial finance**

The provisional trend estimate for commercial finance commitments for April 1994 was $8,013.1 million, an increase of $50.4 million (0.6%) on March 1994 but an increase of $781.8 million (10.8%) on April 1993.

Continued ...

Seasonally adjusted, commercial finance commitments for April 1994 was $8,356.2 million, a decrease of $433.9 million (4.9%) on March 1994 but an increase of $939.9 million (12.7%) on April 1993.

❐ **Lease finance**

The provisional trend estimate for lease finance commitments for April 1994 was $499.9 million, an increase of $8.8 million (1.8%) on March 1994 and an increase of $86.7 million (21.0%) on April 1993.

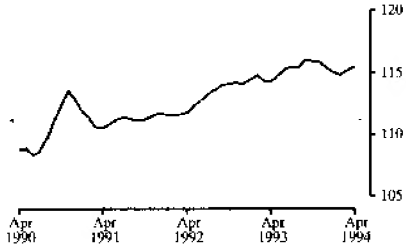
Seasonally adjusted, lease finance commitments for April 1994 was $506.3 million, an increase of $2.6 million (0.5%) on March 1994 and an increase of $120.8 million (31.3%) on April 1993.

These series are available on subscription to a special data service. For further information, contact Michael Sharpe on (02) 268 4788.

Small increase in prices of manufactured goods

The price index of articles produced by manufacturing industry increased by 0.3 per cent in April 1994.

PRICES OF MANUFACTURED GOODS
1988-89 = 100



The increase in April was largely due to higher prices for refined petroleum products, reflecting higher world oil prices. Small price increases were also recorded for a wide range of other items.

These increases were offset by small price decreases for about 30 per cent of the items in the index, with the main decreases being for base metals.

The Manufacturing Division index increased by 1.0 per cent between April 1993 and April 1994.

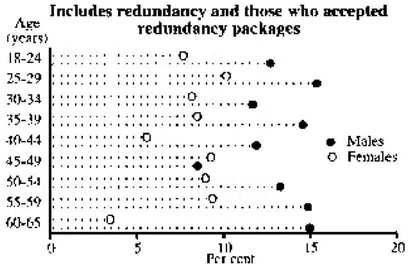
PRICES OF MANUFACTURED GOODS, APRIL 1994
Percentage change

Manufacturing sector	*From previous month*	*From corresponding month of previous year*
Food, beverages and tobacco	0.1	3.8
Transport equipment	0.3	2.4
Clothing and footwear	0.0	0.9
Other industrial machinery	0.0	0.0
Fabricated metal products	0.0	– 0.3
Basic metal products	– 1.1	– 0.3
Chemical products	– 0.1	– 1.0
Petroleum products	5.2	– 14.4
Total manufacturing	*0.3*	*1.0*

For further information, order the publication Price Indexes of Articles Produced by Manufacturing Industry, Australia *(6412.0), or contact Peter Cordy on (06) 252 5541.*

Retrenchments and redundancies in Victoria

PERSONS WHO HAVE BEEN RETRENCHED
Includes redundancy and those who accepted redundancy packages



A survey conducted throughout Victoria in October 1993 has found that over one in ten persons aged between 18 and 65 years who had a job in the previous three years had experienced retrenchment or redundancy during this period.

People in the 25 to 29 year and 55 to 59 year age groups reported the highest incidence of retrenchment (both 13%). Males accounted for almost two-thirds (66%) of those retrenched during this period. (Of all persons who had a job during this period, 56% were males.)

The main reason for retrenchment was reported to be 'not enough work/job cuts' (51% of all retrenchments).

RETRENCHMENTS OF PEOPLE AGED BETWEEN 18 AND 65 YEARS BETWEEN OCTOBER 1990 AND OCTOBER 1993

Main reason retrenched	Number ('000)			Per cent		
	Males	*Females*	*Persons*	*Males*	*Females*	*Total*
Not enough work/job cuts	86.4	38.4	124.8	53.3	46.6	51.1
Business closed	22.0	12.0	34.0	13.6	14.6	13.9
Change of management	8.7	5.5	14.3	5.4	6.7	5.8
Other business problems	7.1	6.6	13.7	4.4	8.0	5.6
Ill health or physical disability/ too young or too old	6.8	3.7	10.6	4.2	4.5	4.3
Nature of job changed/ new technology	7.4	1.8	9.2	4.6	2.2	3.8
Other	23.6	14.3	37.8	14.5	17.3	15.5
Total	*162.0*	*82.5*	*244.4*	*100.0*	*100.0*	*100.0*

Of those persons retrenched, 28 per cent were given less than one day's notice of retrenchment, 19 per cent were given one day to less than one week's notice and 37 per cent were given one to four week's notice.

There were 197,900 persons retrenched from the private sector, and 46,500 retrenched from the public sector. One major difference between public and private sector retrenchments was that while 73 per cent of those retrenched in the public sector had held the job they lost for more than five years, the same percentage of private sector retrenchments had held the job for less than five years.

Those classified as tradespersons represented over one-fifth (22%) of all those retrenched, followed by labourers and related workers (20% of all retrenched workers). The manufacturing industry accounted for 28 per cent of all retrenchments, and 20 per cent of those retrenched were from the wholesale and retail industry.

The unemployment rate for those who had been retrenched was 39 per cent at October 1993, compared to an unemployment rate of 5 per cent for those who had not experienced retrenchment. (The unemployment rate for all persons aged 18 to 65 years who had a job between October 1990 and October 1993, was 8%.)

Continued ...

Persons with post-school qualifications made up about half of all those retrenched. However, their unemployment rate was 29 per cent compared to 51 per cent for those without post-school qualifications who had been retrenched.

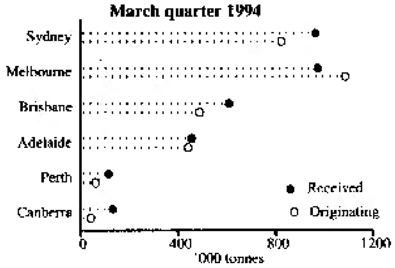
When looking for work after retrenchment, 37 per cent reported 'there were no jobs in their line of work' as a difficulty in getting a job.

For further information, order the publication Retrenched Workers and Workers Who Accepted Redundancy Packages, Victoria *(6266.2), or contact Adrian Serraglio on (03) 615 7352.*

Normal fall in road freight movements for March quarter

Total interstate road freight moved by major operators during the March quarter 1994 was nearly 4.5 million tonnes, a fall of 3.6 per cent from the December quarter 1993. This was consistent with the seasonal movement for each March quarter since 1989.

INTERSTATE ROAD FREIGHT MOVEMENT
March quarter 1994



Total freight tonnes originating from Tasmania, Geelong and Perth showed increases of 58.7 per cent, 23.2 per cent and 13.5 per cent, respectively. Seasonal factors such as cartage of grains, fertilisers and fresh produce contributed to these increases.

Total freight received in Wollongong fell by 27.6 per cent, which some carriers attributed to seasonal factors.

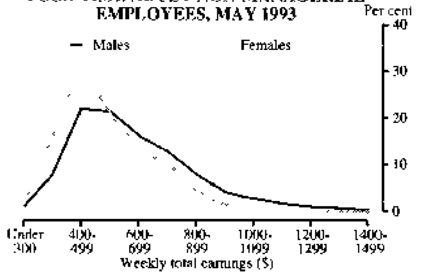
INTERSTATE ROAD FREIGHT MOVEMENT FOR SELECTED MAJOR CENTRES MARCH QUARTER 1994

	Road freight originating		*Road freight received*	
	'000 tonnes	*Percentage change on previous quarter*	*'000 tonnes*	*Percentage change on previous quarter*
Sydney	826	– 5.5	964	– 8.9
Newcastle	78	– 7.4	41	– 3.6
Wollongong	80	– 0.6	17	– 27.6
Melbourne	1 089	– 6.7	975	– 5.1
Geelong	40	23.2	73	– 9.3
Brisbane	492	– 3.0	610	– 2.0
Adelaide	444	– 2.8	460	– 6.8
Perth	68	13.5	116	– 0.1
Tasmania	3	58.7	8	– 11.2
Darwin	10	– 6.8	38	– 6.2
Canberra	46	– 1.7	134	– 1.3
Total	*4 492*	– 3.6	*4 492*	– 3.6

For further information, order the publication Interstate Road Freight Movement, Australia *(9214.0), or contact Mal McAuliffe on (06) 252 6772.*

Earnings gender gap widens

FULL-TIME ADULT NON-MANAGERIAL EMPLOYEES, MAY 1993



Median weekly total earnings for full-time adult non-managerial employees increased by 5.2 per cent to $589.50 for males and by 2.7 per cent to $501.90 for females in the year to May 1993.

For females, average weekly ordinary-time earnings as a proportion of male earnings (excluding overtime), fell from 91.9 per cent in 1992 to 91.1 per cent last year. The slight increase in the gap between male and female ordinary-time earnings was mainly caused by a lower percentage increase between May 1992 and May 1993 in award or base rate of pay for females — 3.6% increase for males and 3.0% increase for females.

In May 1993, 7.2 per cent of full-time adult non-managerial males earned $1,000 or more per week, compared with 1.1 per cent for females. At the same time, 8.8 per cent of males and 17.9 per cent of females earned less than $400 per week.

Overtime increased by 14.9 per cent between 1992 and 1993, reversing the trend of the previous three years. Males received on average $61.80 in overtime pay, corresponding to 2.7 hours overtime. Average overtime earnings for females was $13.50, for 0.7 hours. The industry with the highest average weekly overtime earnings for males was mining ($160.40) while transport and storage was the highest for women ($33.90).

Increases in average weekly total earnings for full-time adult employees between May 1992 and May 1993 were relatively low across all occupation groups. The largest increases were recorded by male plant and machine operators, and drivers (7.0%) and female tradespersons (6.7%).

The proportion of full-time adult managerial employees who were female (23.1%) was much lower than the corresponding figure for males (76.9%).

COMPOSITION OF AVERAGE WEEKLY EARNINGS, MAY 1993
Full-time adult non-managerial employees
Dollars

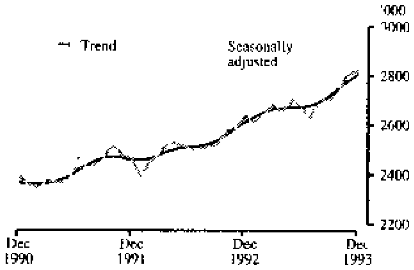
Average weekly earnings	*Males*	*Females*	*Persons*
Ordinary time earnings	577.80	526.50	558.20
Award or agreed base rate of pay	557.20	518.40	542.40
Payment by measured result	10.00	1.90	6.90
Overaward pay	10.50	6.20	8.90
Overtime earnings	61.80	13.50	43.30
Total earnings	*639.60*	*540.00*	*601.50*

For further information, order the publication Distribution and Composition of Employee Earnings and Hours, Australia *(6306.0), or contact Denise Burton on (06) 252 5325 or Glynis Franklin on (09) 323 5967.*

Trends in the tourism industry

The Australian Bureau of Statistics has released the December 1993 issue of its new *Tourism Indicators, Australia* quarterly publication. The Tourism Indicators brings together in one publication a range of the latest statistics covering various aspects of tourism.

MONTHLY ROOM NIGHTS OCCUPIED

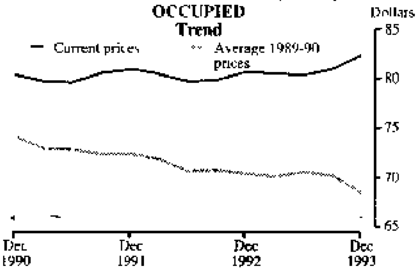


Room nights demand

The demand for rooms in hotels, motels and guest houses increased by 17 per cent between the beginning of 1990 and the end of 1993, according to a trend analysis of room nights in these establishments. At the same time, takings from accommodation increased by 24 per cent. Consequently, average takings per room night increased from $78 to $82. In constant price terms however, this represented a drop of 10 per cent in average room takings over the four year period.

During this period, the Northern Territory experienced the highest growth in demand. Room nights occupied increased by 44 per cent. Queensland, Tasmania and the Australian Capital Territory also showed large increases, each experiencing growth of nearly a third.

AVERAGE TAKINGS PER ROOM NIGHT OCCUPIED
Trend



Average takings per room

Queensland and Western Australia showed the greatest growth in average takings per room night, with trend increases of 17 per cent over the four year period.

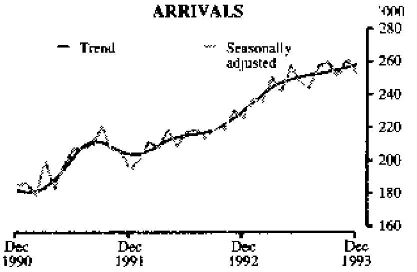
Queensland, the Australian Capital Territory and New South Wales had the highest average takings per room night, each with an average of around $85 in the December quarter 1993. However, New South Wales experienced a fall in average takings over the four year period. The lowest average takings were in Tasmania with a return of $72 per room night. Average takings reflect a number of factors, including occupancy, tariffs and the composition of the type of accommodation available.

While most States/Territories increased their average takings over the four years, only Tasmania and Western Australia experienced an increase in constant price terms.

Supply of rooms

During the year 1993, the supply of rooms in hotels, motels and guest houses remained stable at just under 167,000. However, the composition of the grades of rooms changed. During the year there was a shift towards 3-star and 4-star graded rooms, which increased by 2 per cent and 8 per cent respectively. The numbers of rooms in other star grade establishments fell during the year.

MONTHLY INTERNATIONAL VISITOR ARRIVALS



International visitors

The publication also shows that during 1993, Australia had nearly three million visitors who spent a total of nearly 88 million days in the country. Visitors from the United Kingdom and Ireland contributed the highest proportion of this (18%). Japan and New Zealand, who each contributed 11 per cent of the total visitor days, were the next major source markets.

Continued ...

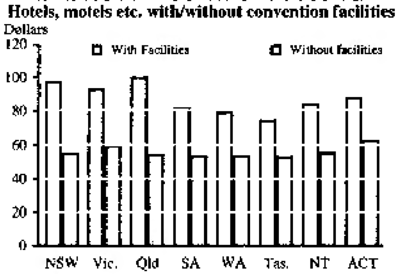
'Holiday' visitors spent 33.7 million days in the country, while those 'visiting relatives' spent 19.8 million days here.

During the December quarter 1993, 44 per cent of visitors arrived through Sydney's Kingsford Smith airport. The next most popular entry point was Eagle Farm in Brisbane, which was the gateway for 19 per cent of visitors. For Japanese visitors, however, Cairns was the second most popular arrival point, with 27 per cent choosing this gateway.

A profile of 'attending convention' and 'business' visitors shows that these categories accounted for 10 per cent of all visitors in 1993. Just under a half of these visitors came from the United States or New Zealand. The United Kingdom and Japan were also significant source markets.

Convention facilities

TAKINGS PER ROOM NIGHT OCCUPIED
Hotels, motels etc. with/without convention facilities



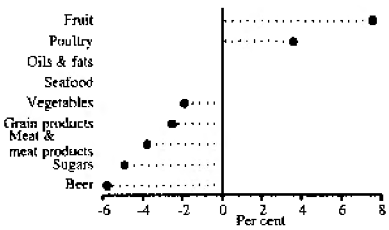
Over 1,900 hotels, motels and guest houses throughout Australia have convention or meeting facilities. As would be expected, establishments with convention/meeting facilities tend to be larger than those without. In December 1993, establishments with such facilities had an average of 57 rooms, while those without averaged 19 rooms.

Establishments with these facilities also tended, in the December quarter 1993, to have higher occupancy rates and higher average takings per room night. These establishments averaged an occupancy rate of 59 per cent, compared with 48 per cent for those without these facilities. Their takings averaged $95 per room night, compared with $57 per room night for establishments without such facilities.

For further information, order the publication Tourism Indicators, Australia *(8634.0), or contact Andy Harris on (06) 252 5452.*

Beef still the preferred meat

APPARENT PER CAPITA CONSUMPTION, 1991-92
Percentage change



Recently released Australian Bureau of Statistics estimates of food consumption in 1991–92 show that beef remains the most significant meat consumed by Australians at 35.8 kg per person, although still declining, by 8.7 per cent.

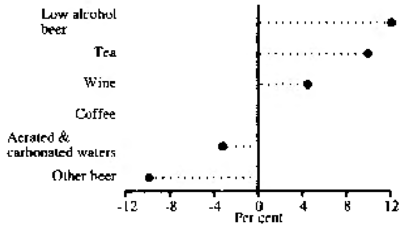
The results for 1991–92 show the consumption of seafood, dairy products, oils and fats, and eggs remained steady while poultry and fruit increased. The intake of meat, vegetables and grain products fell slightly, along with sugar and beer.

Poultry intake continued to grow, by 3.6 per cent to 25.9 kg per capita, whilst seafood consumption levelled at 9.5 kg. Meat consumption fell by 3.9 per cent to 81.1 kg per person.

Lamb and mutton fell, but veal and pigmeat increased. Australians ate 19.3 kg of pigmeat per person in 1991–92, up by 7.2 per cent on the previous year. Veal intake increased for the first time in ten years, to 1.6 kg per person.

Continued ...

APPARENT PER CAPITA CONSUMPTION OF BEVERAGES, 1991-92
Percentage change



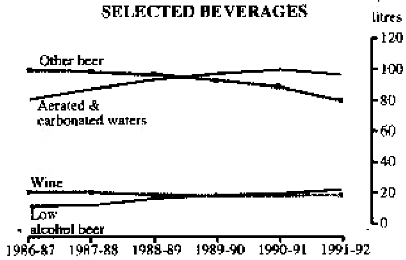
The nutrient density in the available food supply in the past five years has increased due to greater consumption of cereal-based foods, fruit and vegetables. In the same period there has been a fall in the intake of alcoholic beverages, oils and fats, and sugars.

Grain products still contribute the most in energy to the average Australian diet, despite consumption falling 2.6 per cent to 89.2 kg per capita in 1991–92.

Rice consumption in 1991–92 was 5.6 kg per person, an increase of 51.4 per cent over a five year period. Breakfast food consumption also rose by 3.1 kg to 11.9 kg (up 35.2%).

The per capita consumption of fruit increased in 1991–92, to a record 120.1 kg. This is 14 kg higher than consumption in 1986–87 and 50 per cent greater than intake in the 1930s. Citrus fruit comprises over a third of the total fruit available and is a major contributor to these changes.

APPARENT PER CAPITA CONSUMPTION OF SELECTED BEVERAGES



Vegetable consumption declined by 2.0 per cent in 1991–92 to 153.2 kg per person. This follows a fall in 1990–91, but is still 10.6 per cent up on intake in 1986–87.

Margarine remains the major source of oils and fats. Butter consumption remained steady in recent years although, since the 1930s, butter intake has decreased by more than 80 per cent.

Sugar consumption fell in 1991–92, by 5 per cent to 45.6 kg per capita. More than 75 per cent of the cane sugar available for consumption is used in the manufacture of foods. The remainder is available for use in the home as refined sugar.

The intake of tea and coffee has levelled out in recent years but consumption of aerated and carbonated waters declined by 3.4 per cent to 96.6 litres per person. This follows a series of steady rises over the previous seven years.

Demand for low alcohol beer continued to grow in 1991–92, with intake up by 13.2 per cent to 22.3 litres per head. The consumption of higher strength beer fell for the sixth successive year, and in 1991–92 was 79.7 litres per head. The shift towards the low alcohol product is due in part to greater diversity in the range available since the mid 1980s.

Wine consumption increased to 18.6 litres per person, halting the decline of the previous six years. Alcohol consumed as spirits also declined for the third consecutive year, to 1.12 litres alcohol per head. This is 5.1 per cent less than intake in 1986–87, but more than double that of the late 1930s.

For further information, order the publication Apparent Consumption of Foodstuffs and Nutrients, Australia *(4306.0), or contact Joanne Gibbons on (06) 252 5329.*

Inquiries

The ABS supplies a wide range of statistical information:

- through its bookshops
- by mail order (including subscription)
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To order any of the publications mentioned in *Statistics Weekly* or to inquire about the statistics and services available from the ABS, contact Information Services at any of the offices listed below. An Information Consultancy Service in each office provides assistance of a more extensive or complex nature.

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Editor

Rad Leovic
(06) 252 6104

Queensland sport in brief ...

Of persons in Queensland aged 15 years and over, 63.1 per cent (or 1,450,000 persons) participated in at least one sport or physical recreational activity on a regular basis during the twelve months between October 1992 and September 1993.

The sports/physical recreational activities with the highest levels of participation were walking (31.3% of all people who participated), swimming (13.8%) and fishing (12.8%). Males who participated were most likely to nominate walking (19.0%), fishing (18.7%) or golf (17.5%) as one of their main sports/physical recreational activities, while the most common sports/physical recreational activities for females were walking (44.2%), aerobics or aquarobics (22.3%) and swimming (14.8%).

Source: Participation in Sporting and Physical Recreational Activities, Queensland, October 1993 (4110.3).

Order from the following:

Expected releases over the fortnight to 5 July

22 Registrations of New Motor Vehicles, Australia, May 1994, Preliminary (9301.0; $12.00)

23 Price Indexes of Materials Used in Manufacturing Industries, Australia, April 1994 (6411.0; $11.00)
Import Price Index, Australia, April 1994 (6414.0; $8.50)

28 Manufacturing Production, Australia, May 1994, Preliminary (8301.0; $11.00)

30 Balance of Payments, Australia, May 1994 (5301.0; $16.50)
Job Vacancies and Overtime, Australia, May 1994 (6354.0; $13.00)
Building Approvals, Australia, May 1994 (8731.0; $13.50)

Selected releases: 15 to 21 June

General

Monthly Summary of Statistics, Aust., June 1994 (1304.0; $20.50)
Economic Indicators, Qld, June 1994 (1307.3; $6.50)
Northern Territory at a Glance, 1994 (1304.7; $1.00)
Northern Territory Business Indicators, June 1994 (1307.7; $7.50)

Demography

Estimated Resident Population by Age and Sex in Statistical Local Areas, Vic., June 1994 (3207.2; $25.00)
Estimated Resident Population and Area, Qld, 1993 (3202.3; $25.00)

Social statistics

Australian Housing Survey: User Guide, 1994 (4180.0; $10.00) — *new issue*

Labour statistics and Prices

Labour Statistics in Brief, Aust., 1994 (6104.0; $1.00)

Agriculture

Agriculture Statistics — Selected Small Area Data, NSW, 1992–93 (7120.1; $16.50)
Livestock Products — Meat, Qld, April 1994 (7204.3; $5.00)

Manufacturing, Mining, Energy, Service industries, Building and construction

Manufacturing Production, Aust.: Energy Products, February Qtr to April Qtr 1994 (8368.0; $7.00)
Tourist Accommodation, SA, March Qtr 1994 (8635.4; $25.00)
Tourist Accommodation, Tas., March Qtr 1994 (8635.6; $25.00)
Building Approvals, Tas., April 1994 (8731.6; $11.00)

The latest — consolidated to 21 June 1994

Key national indicators

	Period	Units	Latest figure available: Original	Latest figure available: Seasonally adjusted	Percentage change (a) on: Previous period	Percentage change (a) on: Corresponding period last year
National accounts						
Gross domestic product (GDP(A)) at 1989–90 prices	March qtr 94	$m	95 551	100 244	1.9	5.0
International accounts						
Balance on current account (b)	April 94	$m	–1 091	–1 632	–18	—
Balance on merchandise trade (b)	"	"	–209	–286	–51	–26
Balance on goods and services (b)	"	"	–109	–405	–28	2
Merchandise exports	"	"	5 588	5 192	5	6
Merchandise imports	"	"	–4 925	–5 478	–3	7
Net foreign debt	March qtr 94	$m	167 264	n.a.	2.1	3.0
Net foreign liabilities	"	"	233 967	n.a.	–0.8	11.0
Consumption and investment						
Retail turnover at current prices	April 94	$m	8 156.9	8 453.4	–3.7	4.1
New capital expenditure at current prices	March qtr 94	"	5 728	6 397	–5	–2
New motor vehicle registrations (d)	April 94	no.	44 081	51 082	11.7	12.2
Production						
Manufacturers' sales at 1989–90 prices	March qtr 94	$m	35 184	37 572	2.3	9.9
Dwelling unit approvals	April 94	no.	13 856	15 297	2.5	1.5
Building approvals	"	$m	2 013.4	2 260.7	5.2	8.4
Building work done at 1989–90 prices	December qtr 93	"	6 643	6 303	—	2.7
Prices						
Consumer price index	March qtr 94	1989–90 = 100.0	110.4	n.a.	0.4	1.4
Articles produced by manufacturing industry	April 94	1988–89 = 100.0	115.5	n.a.	0.3	1.0
Materials used in manufacturing industries (e)	March 94	1984–85 = 100.0	122.0	n.a.	0.2	–3.1
Labour force and demography						
Employed persons	May 94	'000	7 879.2	7 863.0	0.4	3.0
Participation rate †	"	%	62.7	62.6	0.0	0.4
Unemployment rate †	"	"	9.7	9.8	–0.3	–1.0
Job vacancies	November qtr 93	'000	38.2	38.9	5.1	31.0
Average weekly overtime per employee	"	hours	1.30	1.22	1.7	8.0
Estimated resident population	September qtr 93	million	17.7	n.a.	0.3	1.0
Short-term overseas visitor arrivals	January 94	'000	251	252	–0.6	6.2
Incomes						
Company profits before income tax	March qtr 94	$m	5 150	6 545	34.1	41.7
Av. weekly earnings, full-time adults; ordinary time	February 94	$	612.30	609.50	0.9	3.1
Financial markets						
Interest rates (c) (monthly average)						
90-day bank bills †	April 94	% per annum	4.85	n.a.	–0.1	–0.4
10-year Treasury bonds †	April 94	"	8.45	n.a.	0.5	0.9
Exchange rate — $US (c)	April 94	per $A	0.7165	n.a.	1	1

(a) Based on seasonally adjusted figures where available. (b) For percentage changes, a minus sign indicates an increase in the deficit; no sign means a decrease in the deficit or an increase in the surplus. (c) *Source:* Reserve Bank of Australia. (d) Later figures expected to be released Wednesday, 22 June 1994. (e) Later figures expected to be released Thursday, 23 June 1994.
NOTES: † = change is shown in terms of percentage points. n.a. = not available.

Key State indicators

	Period	Percentage change from same period previous year: NSW	Vic.	Qld	SA	WA	Tas.	NT	ACT	Aust.
New capital expenditure*	December qtr 93	–20.0	30.3	–20.4	–27.3	26.8	–39.5	n.a.	n.a.	–1.5
Retail turnover (trend estimate)	April 94	5.8	3.7	6.8	5.6	9.0	3.4	n.a.	5.8	5.7
New motor vehicle registrations†	April 94	9.0	0.8	48.4	–5.4	1.6	–11.3	21.5	9.5	12.2
Number of dwelling unit approvals*	April 94	4.5	11.4	–5.6	–10.8	–18.3	–15.4	–11.9	–37.6	1.5
Value of total building work done	December qtr 93	–1.3	–0.4	9.1	–6.1	23.8	14.2	42.9	–2.7	3.9
Employed persons*	May 94	3.3	2.5	5.0	0.0	3.4	2.0	–2.0	1.1	3.0
Capital city consumer price index	March qtr 94	0.8	1.6	1.6	1.8	2.1	2.6	1.5	1.2	1.4
Av. weekly earnings (full-time adult ordinary time)	February 94	4.5	1.6	3.8	2.1	1.9	4.0	–0.5	4.0	3.1
Population	September qtr 93	0.9	0.3	2.8	0.5	1.3	0.4	0.9	1.6	1.0
Room nights in licensed hotels and motels, etc.	December qtr 93	8.1	3.3	9.8	4.2	7.7	11.4	12.7	4.5	7.6

* Seasonally adjusted except for NT and ACT. † Seasonally adjusted.
Figures have been taken from a variety of ABS publications. Copies may be obtained from Information Services (see page 7). Some of the figures shown are preliminary, some final, and some are revisions of previously published figures. Users should check the latest relevant publication or with the ABS Information Services if the status of the statistic is important. The ABS should be acknowledged as the source when reproducing or quoting any part of this publication.

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